



Think Tank

Dreaming the Future - Quotes

"Preferred Future Planning is not really about the future. It is about folding the future back on the present so that you can make better decisions today."

Glen Hiemstra

"The future is not something that just happens to you. The future is something you do."

Glen Hiemstra

"The Library is our greatest asset, the one thing we must have to survive."

Brenda Cooper, *Building Harlequin's Moon*

"You'll have to learn to talk to the Library. We use subvocals ... otherwise we'd all walk around talking to thin air, and it's hard to access information in the middle of a meeting."

Brenda Cooper, *Building Harlequin's Moon*

"I used to think that cyberspace was fifty years away. What I thought was fifty years away, was only ten years away. And what I thought was ten years away ... it was already here. I just wasn't aware of it yet."

Bruce Sterling

"In a way, staring into a computer screen is like staring into an eclipse. It's brilliant and you don't realize the damage until it's too late."

Bruce Sterling

"Let's keep in mind that the Internet is only the first wave of development, only to be dwarfed by the explosion of wireless services. Broadband begets content begets broadband – once the snowball starts rolling, we will be utterly amazed at the velocity of content dissemination on digital networks."

Dave Kusek & Gerd Leonhard, *The Future of Music*

"It's old Greek," she said. "From the Gospel of Mary. It says, 'Ask what you will.'"

"I never heard of a Gospel of Mary."

She smiled at him. "Many haven't. It came to light at the turn of the twentieth century, but it wasn't authenticated for two more centuries."

Louise Marley, *The Child Goddess*

"If you don't go far enough back in memory or far enough ahead in hope, your present is impoverished."

Edward Lindaman

"Everything possible today was at one time impossible. Everything impossible today may at some time in the future be possible."
Edward Lindaman

"I skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it is."
Wayne Gretzky

"Originality is simply a fresh pair of eyes."
Woodrow Wilson

"One day in the next 30 years, very quietly, we will cease to be the brightest things on earth."
James McAlear

"Do not limit your children to your own learning, for they were born into a new time."
Ancient Proverb

"... the transformation that has now begun will not be limited to technological innovations or changes in the industrial structure, but will fundamentally alter the very structure of society itself."
Taichi Sakaiya, *The Knowledge Value Revolution*

"Consciousness precedes reality, and not the other way around."
President Vaclav Havel, Czech Republic

"The future enters into us in order to transform itself in us, long before it happens."
Rainier Maria Rilke

"When a scientist states that something is possible, he is most certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong."
Arthur C. Clarke

"Today we deal with 65,000 more pieces of information each day than did our ancestors 100 years ago."
Jean Houston

"Most people still seem unaware that the basic rules are changing ... It means reevaluating issues in new terms ... The straight-line future runs flat into a wall."
Alvin Toffler

"The future now belongs to societies that organize themselves for learning. What we know and can do holds the key to economic progress."
Ray Marshall & Marc Tucker

"If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else."
Lewis Carroll

"First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do."
Epictetus

"The future's not real, yet it's no abstraction."
Bruce Sterling, *Tomorrow Now*

"Knowing how to think about the future is becoming increasingly urgent as the pace of change in our world accelerates."

Edward Cornish, *Futuring: The Exploration of the Future*

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

John F. Kennedy

"Leaders think for themselves, and they don't always do what they're told. They learn, and weigh, and decide. They *create* the future."

Treease to Rachel in
Building Harlequin's Moon by Nevin and Cooper.

"Librarians throughout the state will be provided an opportunity to attend regular seminars on all phases of library work, and be given the latest information on the use of the computerized Reference Center."

Thirty-Third Biennial Report of the Idaho State Library: July 1, 1964—June 30, 1966

"Fear not for the future, weep not for the past."

Percy Bysshe Shelley

"...(F)oresight has become the great need of our times. We must think ahead if we are to cope with the hurricane-force changes now bashing at every aspect of life—...."

Edward Cornish, *Futuring: The Exploration of the Future*

"Try to be happier. You don't always have a choice about what happens to you, but you have a choice about how you react."

Treease to Rachel in
Building Harlequin's Moon by Nevin and Cooper.

"At bottom our troubled state of mind reflects an inability to see the future in an historic context. If current events strike us as all surprise and shock it is because we cannot see these events in a meaningful framework. If the future seems to us as a kind of limbo, a repository of endless surprises, it is because we no longer see it as the expected culmination of the past, as the growing edge of the present."

Robert Heilbroner

"The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time."

Abraham Lincoln

"The administrative staff (of the State Library) will include consultants for public libraries, state institutions, school and university libraries, special libraries in the state agencies. There will be experts in the fields of library construction, children's libraries, adult education, and library service to the physically handicapped and culturally deprived. The public relations personnel will interpret the library to the community, and act as liaison to the Legislature. They will prepare publicity materials for distribution to local libraries, news items for the press, films to promote the library concept, and material for radio and TV programs."

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"...(T)he goal of futuring is not to predict the future, but to make it better. We have enormous opportunities to improved our future, and we also can avoid many potential problems if we are willing to look ahead."

Edward Cornish, *Futuring: The Exploration of the Future*

"What about my wrist pad?' She tried to sound casual about the query. Lack of communication access was hard; she felt vulnerable."

Rachel questions Gabriel in
Building Harlequin's Moon by Nevin and Cooper.

"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough."

Albert Einstein

"In times of change, learners inherit the Earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists."

Eric Hoffer

"My interest in the future is because I am going to spend the rest of my life there."

Charles F. Kettering

"All successful people men and women are big dreamers. They imagine what their future could be, ideal in every respect, and then they work every day toward their distant vision, that goal or purpose."

Brian Tracy

"The challenges of change are always hard. It is important that we begin to unpack those challenges that confront this nation and realize that we each have a role that requires us to change and become more responsible for shaping our own future."

Hillary Rodham Clinton

"The future belongs to people who see possibilities before they become obvious."

Ted Levitt

"People who spoke about the future were regarded as dreamers, charlatans, or just fools; sensible people were focused on their immediate business."

Edward Cornish, *Futuring: The Exploration of the Future*

"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating. The paths to it are not found but made, and the activity of making them changes both the maker and the destination."

John Schaar

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

“It is change, continuing change, inevitable change, that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.”

Isaac Asimov, *My Own View in
The Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* ed. by Holdstock)

“Isolated individuals – and we can assume that there will still be such individuals in Idaho – will apply directly to the regional libraries for library service. Bookmobile service may be replaced by helicopter service in some areas.”

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“Learn the past, watch the present, and create the future.”

Jesse Conrad

“In the future, instead of striving to be right at a high cost, it will be more appropriate to be flexible and plural at a lower cost. If you cannot accurately predict the future then you must flexibly be prepared to deal with various possible futures.”

Edward De Bono, *Serious Creativity*

“The only certain thing about the future is that it will surprise even those who have seen furthest into it.”

E. J. Hobsbawm

“With so many of the clerical details eliminated from library routines, the librarian will have more time to accomplish his or her main purpose – serving the patron. We can expect the librarian of the future to be community-oriented, to reach all classes of people, and to give personalized attention to the requirements of each individual patron.”

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“Let's not be trapped, or worse, trap ourselves, in a future dominated solely by our past.”

Joseph Janes, *The Future of Reference*, 2002.

“A first step in thinking about the global future is to recognize that the events and trends we observe are not seen in all innocence. They are filtered through a lens of values and beliefs born from previous experiences.”

Gregory Raymond, *The Global Future*, with Charles W. Kegley, Jr.

“..., (D)eveloping our futuring skills will sharpen our ability to assess the probabilities, anticipate consequences, and choose ever-wiser courses of action that can lead us to the best possible future.”

Edward Cornish, *Futuring: The Exploration of the Future*